

This is Afterschool in Montana



Montana parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In Montana, more than 56,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

Demand for Afterschool Programs in Montana is Enormous

Parents of **72,388** children want afterschool programs

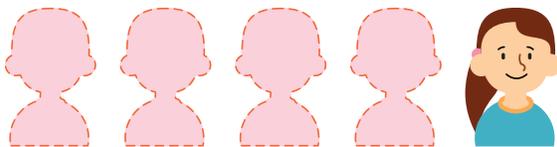
✓ **15,928**

children are in afterschool programs

✗ **56,460**

children are **not** in programs, but would be if a program were available

Nearly 4 in 5 Montana children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Montana Children's Learning and Development

Montana parents give programs high marks for quality and for supporting their child with:

94%

A safe environment



92%

Excitement about learning



88%

Teamwork + critical thinking skills



92%

Time with peers + building social skills



4.27

Quality Rating



85%

Excellent or Very Good

Afterschool Works in Montana

A 2023 evaluation of Montana's 21st CCLC programs by JEM & R, LLC found that participation in the program helped:

- ▲ **Improve school engagement:** 85% of students in need of improvement improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning. Nearly half of students saw improvements in their willingness to try new things (49%), class participation (47%), and interest in various topics (47%)
- ▲ **Support students' well-being:** Approximately 9 in 10 students said that they felt supported by program staff (93%), physically and emotionally safe (93%), and connected to their peers (88%).
- ▲ **Build life skills and career readiness:** Among middle and high school participants, most said that they had opportunities to further develop their career plan in the program (70%). Additionally, 94% of students showed improvement in life skills development.

Montana Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

86%

Agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs.



86%

Are in favor of public funding for afterschool programs. Support for public funding is also high across political affiliations.



Afterschool Programs Help Working Families and Strengthen the Economy

Montana parents report that their child's afterschool program:

81%

Helps them keep their job



90%

Leads to less stress



93%

Boosts productivity



Additionally, research spanning several states shows that **every \$1 invested** in afterschool programs **saves at least \$3** by:



Increasing kids' earning potential as adults



Improving kids' performance at school



Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



If there were not an afterschool program available, what, if any impact would it have on your family?

"I would have to reduce my work hours a couple of days a week, and my child would not get the social interaction skills he is currently getting."

— MONTANA DAD

21st Century Community Learning Centers

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC) is the only federal funding dedicated to afterschool and summer programs, enabling states to award funds to local programs that meet community needs. 21st CCLC programs engage students in hands-on learning activities aimed at supporting their academic growth, provide a variety of enrichment activities to complement school-day learning, and offer educational and support services to the families of participating children.

IN MONTANA:

7,630

children are served by a 21st CCLC program

80

communities served

Demand for programming in Montana is so great that more than **1 out of every 2** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Montana After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/montana/demand>.
2. Resendez, M., & Ray, J. (2023). *Montana 21st Century Community Learning Centers state evaluation report: 2021-22*. JEM & R, LLC.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Montana Office of Public Instruction. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by MT 21st CCLCs, 2024-2025] [Unpublished raw data].

About the Afterschool Alliance

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: www.afterschoolalliance.org

